

Snape Annual Parish Meeting 13 May 2026

## **ALDE & ORE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (AOCP)**

*Summary: During the last 12 months the AOCP has continued to address securing plans that will ensure that the whole of the Alde and Ore estuary area its homes, businesses, roads, infrastructure and natural environment continue to be protected from flooding by viable and sturdy river defences. Proposals for a rolling programme to achieve this were agreed at the March meeting of the AOCP.*

### **Report**

The Alde and Ore Community Partnership has representatives from every parish which borders on, or contains part of the Alde and Ore Estuary, including of course Orford and Gedgrave. The AOCP is the guardian of the Estuary Plan to safeguard the area from extreme flooding and, through its representatives of the community, provides a route to communicate plans and views about them. It meets quarterly and members of the public are always welcome to attend. *(for details see [www.aocp.co.uk](http://www.aocp.co.uk))*

The continuation of the Alde and Ore Estuary is very important to the wellbeing of the Orford and its surrounding area, its residents, businesses and the wonderful natural surroundings. The river wall embankments, some 800 years old having started in Orford in 1168, have to be improved or reinforced every 70 years or so. An estuary Plan to achieve this was endorsed by all the authorities concerned with prevention of flooding in 2016. Since then, further planning and extensive flood modelling has been undertaken as works cannot be undertaken in one part of the area if they are likely to cause flooding in another part.

The original project to achieve this was started, after years of planning, in 2023 with a potential grant of £11.9 million plus local funding but was overtaken by a massive escalation of costs, the result of the cumulative effect of the national energy crisis, the Ukraine war and locally the impact of Sizewell C developments on local construction costs. The request to the Environment Agency to do only half the project failed as it would have resulted in potentially more houses being flooded in the Iken Flood Cell. The AOCP, working in partnership with the Alde & Ore Estuary Trust, and the East Suffolk Water Management Board recognised the upper estuary project had to be shelved and so the search began to find a new approach to achieve resilience in all parts of the estuary at a more reasonable cost .

At the March 2026 quarterly meeting of the AOCP, held in Orford Town Hall, with members of the public welcome to attend, a proposal was presented, discussed and approved in principle for a rolling programme of prioritised works, to last initially for 5 years. The aim of the proposal is to secure resilience to flooding by dealing with the weakest spots in the river's flood defence walls, whether low spots, eroded fronts, thin backslopes or similar and to start doing this from next year.

The funding will come principally from a fund established by the Internal Drainage Board landowner levy payers and the AOET, some Environment Agency funds directly related to the Estuary, bidding for Environment Agency funds and other funds where there is provision for particular aspects of flood prevention and environmental enhancement. The AOET will continue their fundraising actions with Trusts, charities and from all of us in the area who will benefit from sound flood defences.

The next quarterly meeting of the Alde and Ore Community Partnership is expected to be on Thursday 25 June 2026, when further updates will be given.

Alison Andrews Hon Secretary 7 May 2026